

8. The situation in Sierra Leone

Decision of 7 February 2000 (4099th meeting): resolution 1289 (2000)

At its 4098th meeting,¹ on 7 February 2000, the Security Council included in its agenda a letter dated 23 December 1999 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council² and the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) dated 11 January 2000.³

By the above-mentioned letter, in view of the impending withdrawal of troops from the Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Sierra Leone, the Secretary-General recommended that the Council authorize the expansion of UNAMSIL up to 10,000 military personnel and broaden its mandate with more robust rules of engagement in order to enable it to assume the functions currently performed by the Monitoring Group (ECOMOG).

In his report, the Secretary-General observed that the peace established in Sierra Leone, despite some progress, remained very fragile. In order to enable UNAMSIL to assume many of the functions assigned to ECOMOG, he recommended that the Security Council authorize, as soon as possible, the expansion of UNAMSIL to up to 11,100 military personnel and a broadening of its mandate. He noted that the expansion of UNAMSIL would be indispensable for making progress towards priorities identified in the peace process — maintaining the necessary security conditions for the implementation of the Lomé Agreement, in particular the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, the extension of State administration throughout the

provinces and, in due course, the holding of elections in Sierra Leone.

At the meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, following which statements were made by the representatives of Bangladesh, Mali, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. In his briefing, the Under-Secretary-General reported that the situation in Sierra Leone had remained relatively stable, notwithstanding a number of serious incidents and updated the Council on the deployment and expansion of UNAMSIL, in view of the withdrawal of ECOMOG troops from the country. Concluding his briefing, he underlined the importance for regional leaders and Security Council members to continue to engage with the parties to ensure they fulfill their commitments under the Lomé Agreement and cooperate fully with UNAMSIL. Following a number of questions regarding the deployment of UNAMSIL, the Under-Secretary-General reported about some difficulties concerning the operational capacity of the Mission and updated the Council on the stage of negotiations with a number of countries interested in contributing to the expanded Mission.⁴

At its 4099th meeting,⁵ on 7 February 2000, the Council included in its agenda the documents considered at the 4098th meeting.⁶ The President (Argentina) also drew the attention of the Council to a letter dated 17 January 2000 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Sierra Leone,⁷ endorsing the recommendations of the Secretary-General contained in his report dated 11 January 2000.

Some Council members,⁸ as well as the representative of Sierra Leone, made statements. In their statements, speakers supported the expansion and the broadened mandate of UNAMSIL, recognized the contribution of ECOMOG, and underlined the importance of the full implementation of the Lomé

¹ During this period, in addition to the meetings covered in this section, the Council held a number of meetings in private with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B. The meetings were held on 13 September 2001 (4371st), 20 March 2002 (4496th), 18 September 2002 (4610th), 20 March 2003 (4724th) and 16 September 2003 (4827th).

² S/1999/1285.

³ S/2000/13 and Add.1, submitted pursuant to resolution 1270 (1999).

⁴ S/PV.4098, pp. 2-4.

⁵ For more information on the discussion at this meeting, see chap. XI, part IV, sect. B, with regard to Article 42 of the Charter.

⁶ S/1999/1285 and S/2000/13 and Add.1.

⁷ S/2000/31.

⁸ Canada, China, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Agreement. The representative of Sierra Leone welcomed the fact that the revised mandate and additional responsibilities of UNAMSIL were fully backed by Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.⁹ By contrast, the representative of the United Kingdom underlined that UNAMSIL was not a Chapter VII peace enforcement mission, although in formulating the mandate of the Mission it was recognized that the task required a robust and serious stance against possible threats.¹⁰

At the same meeting, the President drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;¹¹ it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously as resolution 1289 (2000), by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Decided that the military component of UNAMSIL should be expanded to a maximum of 11,100 military personnel, including the 260 military observers already deployed;

Decided further that the mandate of UNAMSIL, as revised, should be extended for a period of six months from the date of the adoption of the resolution;

Authorized the increases in the civil affairs, civilian police, administrative and technical personnel of UNAMSIL proposed by the Secretary-General in his report of 11 January 2000;

Welcomed the intention of the Secretary-General to establish within UNAMSIL a landmine action office responsible for mine action activities; reiterated the importance of the safety, security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel;

Reiterated its request to the Government of Sierra Leone to conclude a status-of-forces agreement with the Secretary-General within 30 days of the adoption of this resolution;

Welcomed the contributions made to the multi-donor trust fund;

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, decided further that the mandate of UNAMSIL should be revised to include the following additional tasks:

(a) To provide security at key locations and Government buildings, in particular in Freetown, important intersections and major airports, including Lungi airport;

(b) To facilitate the free flow of people, goods and humanitarian assistance along specified thoroughfares;

(c) To provide security in and at all sites of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme;

(d) To coordinate with and assist, in common areas of deployment, the Sierra Leone law enforcement authorities in the discharge of their responsibilities;

(e) To guard weapons, ammunition and other military equipment collected from ex-combatants and to assist in their subsequent disposal or destruction;

Authorized UNAMSIL to take the necessary action to fulfil the additional tasks set out above.

Deliberations of 13 March 2000 (4111th meeting)

On 7 March 2000, the Secretary-General submitted a report on UNAMSIL,¹² in which he observed that one of the main priorities for UNAMSIL remained the speedy establishment of a credible peacekeeping presence throughout the country to create the necessary climate of confidence and security conditions for the implementation of various aspects of the peace process. At the same time, the Secretary-General expressed concern about the often negative and confusing approach taken by the leader of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), Mr. Foday Sankoh, to key elements of the peace process and the role entrusted to the United Nations and UNAMSIL. He condemned as unacceptable the continuing ceasefire violations perpetrated against civilians and peacekeepers as well as the persistent obstruction of UNAMSIL patrols and deployments. In the face of considerable difficulties, the Secretary-General reported that UNAMSIL made impressive progress in deploying to many locations in Sierra Leone, including areas where previously no ECOMOG peacekeepers had been deployed. He therefore hoped that the continuing expansion of UNAMSIL would help to instill confidence and accelerate the process of disarmament, which progressed quite slowly, as well as the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Also, the Secretary-General outlined the main steps ahead in the peace process in Sierra Leone that could be grouped under four specific areas: first, the early disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of all ex-combatants; secondly, the extension of State authority, including law enforcement, throughout the country; thirdly, national reconciliation and democratization; and, fourthly, the improvement of Sierra Leone's capacity to ensure its own security. The Secretary-General observed that the progress towards these objectives would require full

⁹ S/PV.4099, p. 3.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

¹¹ S/2000/34.

¹² S/2000/186, submitted pursuant to resolution 1289 (2000).

and sustained commitment by the Government of Sierra Leone, RUF and other Sierra Leonean parties, as well as on the part of the international community. Finally, the Secretary-General expressed his gratitude to the efforts of the ECOWAS Chairman as well as of the other leaders of the region in supporting the peace process in Sierra Leone.

At its 4111th meeting, on 13 March 2000, the Council included in its agenda the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General.¹² At the meeting, at which statements were made by most members of the Council and the representative of Sierra Leone,¹³ the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. In his briefing, the Assistant Secretary-General noted that during the reporting period there had been some progress in furthering the peace process in Sierra Leone, but in many areas the process had remained slow, in particular with regard to the disarmament process in the northern and eastern parts of the country, where groups of rebels continued to interfere with humanitarian activities and with UNAMSIL patrols and to harass the civilian population in such areas. He reiterated the appeal of the Secretary-General for the parties to stop the ceasefire violations perpetrated against the civilians and the peacekeepers as well as the persistent obstructions of UNAMSIL patrols and deployment. Finally, he recalled the main steps that according to the Secretary-General should be taken in the peace process, underscoring also the importance of a sustained commitment by all the parties concerned, as well as the need for significant material and financial resources.¹⁴

In the course of the debate, members of the Council endorsed the report of the Secretary-General and generally concurred with his assessment of the situation as well as with the four main steps in the peace process. The representative of the United Kingdom noted that his recent visit to Sierra Leone bore out the main conclusions in the Secretary-General's analysis and recommended that the President make a statement to the media which, among other things, made it clear that the Council endorsed the conclusions of the Secretary-General's report.¹⁵ Some speakers welcomed the continued presence of ECOMOG to maintain the fragile situation and prevent

a security vacuum and, in this regard, applauded the decision of the Government of Nigeria to suspend the withdrawal of the Nigerian ECOMOG troops.¹⁶ The representative of Malaysia stated that it was imperative for UNAMSIL to respond in a "more assertive manner", in accordance with the robust rules of engagement provided for under the limited Chapter VII mandate of the Mission.¹⁷ Similarly, the representative of Argentina noted that, since UNAMSIL was facing a hostile environment, Chapter VII of the Charter and the rules of engagement should be applied very rigorously.¹⁸

On the basis of the preceding discussion, the President outlined six elements he intended to include in his statement to the media: (1) members of the Security Council endorsed, in general, the conclusions of the Secretary-General's report; (2) Council members placed great weight on the early implementation of all aspects of the Lomé Peace Agreement and commended the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Oluyemi Adeniji, and of UNAMSIL to this end; (3) Council members expressed their disappointment at the slow progress being made in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process in particular; (4) Council members called upon all signatories to the Lomé Agreement, and in particular upon Chairman Sankoh and RUF, to reaffirm and demonstrate their concrete commitment to the Lomé peace process by allowing the extension of State authority throughout Sierra Leone, in full cooperation with UNAMSIL and with the United Nations team as a whole, and by instructing the RUF membership to disarm and to surrender all weapons, including their heavy weapons, mines and anti-aircraft equipment; (5) Council members urged Member States strictly to enforce the travel ban imposed by the Council and to remind concerned Sierra Leone leaders of their obligation to obtain exemptions before travelling abroad, without exception; and lastly (6) Council members welcomed the upcoming donor conference in London on 27 March and urged Members to participate and contribute generously to the peace process and development efforts in Sierra Leone.¹⁹

¹³ The representative of France did not make a statement.

¹⁴ S/PV.4111, pp. 2-5.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 5-7.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 8 (Netherlands); and p. 11 (Jamaica); and S/PV.4111 (Resumption 1), p. 6 (Canada).

¹⁷ S/PV.4111, p. 7.

¹⁸ S/PV.4111 (Resumption 1), p. 4.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 12.

**Decision of 4 May 2000 (4134th meeting):
statement by the President**

At the 4134th meeting, on 4 May 2000, in which the representative of Sierra Leone was invited to participate, the President (China) drew the attention of the Council to two letters dated 2 and 4 May 2000 from the representative of Sierra Leone, transmitting, respectively, a press release related to incidents of violence against international peacekeepers in Sierra Leone²⁰ and a resolution adopted by the Parliament of Sierra Leone following the mounting attacks on UNAMSIL forces.²¹

At the meeting, the President made a statement on behalf of the Council,²² by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Demanded that RUF release immediately and unharmed all detained United Nations and other international personnel and cooperate in establishing the whereabouts of those unaccounted for; held Foday Sankoh, as leader of RUF, to be responsible for these actions;

Commended the forces of UNAMSIL and the Force Commander for the courage, resolve and sacrifice they had shown in attempting to bring the situation under control.

Deliberations of 11 May 2000 (4139th meeting)

The 4139th meeting of the Council²³ was held on 11 May 2000 in response to the requests contained in a letter dated 10 May 2000 from the representative of Eritrea, on behalf of the Group of African States,²⁴ and letters dated 11 May 2000 from the representatives of Mali and Namibia.²⁵ The letters were included in the agenda of the meeting.

The Council heard a briefing by the Secretary-General, following which statements were made by all Council members²⁶ and the representatives of Algeria (on behalf of the Chairman of the Organization of African Unity), Djibouti, India, Japan, Jordan, Norway,

Pakistan, Portugal (on behalf of the European Union²⁷) and Sierra Leone.²⁸

In opening the meeting, the President (China) emphasized the urgency and the importance of the matter before the Council, and observed that since the deterioration of the situation in Sierra Leone the Council had held numerous consultations and heard regular briefings from the Secretariat. The Council was then briefed by the Secretary-General who described the detention of several hundreds of UNAMSIL peacekeepers by RUF as “deplorable and unacceptable”. He therefore reminded the RUF leader, Foday Sankoh, of his responsibility for the action of forces under his command, and demanded that the detainees be immediately and unconditionally released. Observing that UNAMSIL was configured as a peacekeeping force and that it was neither designed nor equipped to be an enforcement operation, the Secretary-General stated that, in the light of the new situation, it was necessary to consolidate and reinforce the United Nations troops so that they could defend themselves and their mandates effectively and help stabilize the situation. Since after the deployment of additional troops to Sierra Leone the military component of UNAMSIL would exceed the maximum authorized by the Council in resolution 1289 (2000), the Secretary-General hoped that, under the circumstances, the Council would be willing to set a new and more generous limit. Emphasizing the logistical difficulties of such reinforcement, he commended the Member States that were willing to assist, including the offer by ECOWAS to send additional troops. Noting that West African leaders, among others, had called for a revision of the UNAMSIL mandate to give it a clear enforcement role, the Secretary-General stated that he was not necessarily opposed to that but specified that, whatever mandate was decided, the first priority for the Council should be to ensure that there was the capacity to carry out the tasks outlined in the mandate. With reference to the offer of troops by ECOWAS, the Secretary-General underlined that it was contingent on financial and logistical support from other Member States. Although recognizing that a degree of regional and subregional specializations in handling security issues was quite

²⁰ S/2000/373.

²¹ S/2000/380.

²² S/PRST/2000/14.

²³ For more information on the discussion at this meeting, see chap. XI, part IV, sect. B, with regard to Article 42 of the Charter; part V, sect. B, with regard to Article 43; and part V, sect. D, with regard to Article 44.

²⁴ S/2000/408.

²⁵ S/2000/409 and S/2000/410.

²⁶ The representative of Mali made a statement in his capacity as coordinator of the States of ECOMOG.

²⁷ The Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia aligned themselves with the statement.

²⁸ The representative of Mozambique was invited to participate but did not make a statement.

natural and healthy, he observed that the United Nations and the Council could not be released from their overall responsibility. In his view, the best way to provide UNAMSIL with the combat capability it needed was to cooperate to reactivate the peace process and to form with the new troops a nucleus of a rapid reaction force. He therefore called on the Council to back words with deeds, and mandates with the resources to make them work.²⁹

During the course of the debate, speakers were unanimous in their condemnation of the actions of RUF and its leadership, requesting that the detained peacekeepers be released immediately and without preconditions. The majority of speakers expressed the view that the credibility of the United Nations was at stake; commended the Government of the United Kingdom for sending additional troops to defend the airport; and, in view of the possible repercussions of the events in Sierra Leone on peacekeeping in other parts of Africa, called for urgent action in the crisis; agreed that priority should be given to securing the release of the hostages, as well as to stabilizing the situation by quickly reinforcing UNAMSIL through the deployment of the remaining troops; welcomed the decision of the recent Summit of Heads of State of ECOWAS held in Abuja to send troops to Sierra Leone.

In connection with the mandate of UNAMSIL, several speakers, in view of the serious situation on the ground and the small numbers of UNAMSIL forces, called for a review of the Mission's mandate by adoption of a new resolution that would place UNAMSIL entirely within the context of Chapter VII of the Charter, making it a peace-enforcement mission.³⁰ The representative of China stressed that the Council should adopt appropriate measures with respect to the situation in Sierra Leone, including a review of the mandate and the adoption of measures to ensure that the mandate was fully implemented. In this regard, he expected the Secretariat to formulate recommendations.³¹ The representative of France noted that there should be true cohesiveness between the

mandate of the force and the size, which was not sufficiently the case for UNAMSIL.³²

By contrast, the representatives of the United Kingdom, Argentina, the Russian Federation, Portugal, India, Pakistan and Jordan expressed the view that the current mandate of UNAMSIL was sufficient to deal with the situation and to carry out the Mission's tasks, as it contained elements of Chapter VII of the Charter.³³ The representative of the United Kingdom agreed with the conclusion of the Secretary-General that changing the UNAMSIL mandate would not of itself change it into an effective peace enforcement mission and moving to peace enforcement would be a radical change of approach, which should be thought carefully.³⁴

Expressing his country's gratitude to the United Nations, the representative of Sierra Leone stressed that the average citizen in his country did not know the difference between Chapter VI and Chapter VII mandates. He therefore appealed to the Security Council, as the organ primarily responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, to take the lead in ensuring the safety and security of the people in Sierra Leone and of the United Nations Mission deployed to give effect to the Council's mandatory decisions on Sierra Leone.³⁵

**Decision of 19 May 2000 (4145th meeting):
resolution 1299 (2000)**

At its 4145th meeting, on 19 May 2000, in which the representative of Sierra Leone was invited to participate, the Council included in its agenda a letter dated 17 May 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council.³⁶ In the letter, the Secretary-General stated that, as a result of the recent attacks by RUF against UNAMSIL personnel and the resumption of hostilities, it was deemed crucial to accelerate the deployment of military units that Member States had already committed for service with UNAMSIL, as well as to further reinforce the Mission's military component, up to 13,000 military personnel. As the Council, by

²⁹ S/PV.4139, pp. 2-3.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 5 (Algeria); p. 6 (Mali as coordinator of the ECOMOG States); p. 10 (Malaysia); p. 13 (Bangladesh); p. 14 (Namibia); p. 17 (Jamaica); p. 18 (Ukraine); and p. 20 (Tunisia).

³¹ *Ibid.*, p. 20.

³² *Ibid.*, p. 19.

³³ *Ibid.*, p. 7 (United Kingdom); p. 15 (Argentina); p. 16 (Russian Federation); p. 22 (Portugal); p. 24 (India); p. 27 (Pakistan); and p. 28 (Jordan).

³⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 7.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 21.

³⁶ S/2000/446.

resolution 1289 (2000), had authorized the Mission's strength of 11,100 military personnel, the Secretary-General noted that that number would be exceeded in the following days as the reinforcements arrived, therefore requesting the Security Council to consider taking appropriate steps to authorize the interim expansion of the United Nations force.

At the meeting, at which no statements were made, the President (China) drew the attention of the Council to two letters dated 15 May 2000 from the representative of Sierra Leone, transmitting a statement by the Government on the third meeting of the Joint Implementation Committee on the Lomé Peace Agreement³⁷ and a message broadcast to the nation by the President of Sierra Leone in which he appealed to the members of RUF to lay down their arms and release all United Nations peacekeepers being detained;³⁸ and a letter dated 9 May 2000 from the representative of Mali addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué of the Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State, members of the Committee on Sierra Leone of the Lomé Peace Agreement, held in Abuja on 9 May 2000.³⁹

The President then drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;⁴⁰ it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1299 (2000), by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Decided that the military component of UNAMSIL should be expanded to a maximum of 13,000 military personnel, including the 260 military observers already deployed;

Expressed its appreciation to all States for the rapid reinforcement of UNAMSIL and for their additional contribution of personnel and logistical and technical assistance; and decided to remain actively seized of the matter.

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, decided that the restrictions set out in paragraph 2 of its resolution 1171 (1998) of 5 June 1998 did not apply to the sale or supply of arms and related materiel for the sole use in Sierra Leone of those Member States cooperating with UNAMSIL and the Government of Sierra Leone.

³⁷ S/2000/433.

³⁸ S/2000/434.

³⁹ S/2000/441.

⁴⁰ S/2000/449.

**Decision of 5 July 2000 (4168th meeting):
resolution 1306 (2000)**

On 19 May 2000, the Secretary-General submitted a report on UNAMSIL, in which he observed that the overall situation in Sierra Leone remained tense and critical. He condemned as unacceptable acts the deliberate and unprovoked attacks by RUF fighters on United Nations peacekeepers as well as the detention of large numbers of United Nations personnel.⁴¹ To this end, he demanded that the leadership of RUF release immediately and unconditionally all remaining United Nations personnel in their hands and called upon those with influence on RUF to continue to work towards this end. In addition, he also recommended that the Security Council consider a strengthening of the sanctions regime, including measures which would prevent RUF commanders from reaping the benefits of their illegal exploitation of mineral resources, in particular diamonds. In such difficult circumstances, the Secretary-General noted that active political efforts to assist the people of Sierra Leone to change the course of events in their country should be supplemented by credible military force and therefore recommended an increase of the strength of UNAMSIL up to a level of 16,500 military personnel, for the purpose of stabilizing the situation in the country. With reference to the Mission's mandate, the Secretary-General observed that he did not oppose a strong peace-enforcement mandate under Chapter VII of the Charter, as long as the United Nations was able to obtain from Member States the necessary resources to carry out the new mandate and the international community demonstrated the necessary will and resolve to sustain such a commitment. The Secretary-General added that, ultimately, a lasting resolution of the crisis could not be imposed by military force alone, but needed to be found through political means, with the Government of Sierra Leone holding a particular responsibility to actively design and implement the necessary steps towards peace in consultation with its regional and international partners, particularly the continuation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, together with the restructuring of Sierra Leone's armed forces.

⁴¹ S/2000/455, submitted pursuant to resolution 1289 (2000).

At its 4168th meeting,^{42,43} on 5 July 2000, the Council included in its agenda the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General.⁴⁴ Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, China, Canada, France (on behalf of the European Union⁴⁵), Mali, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Speaking before the vote, the representative of Sierra Leone, noting that the illicit export of Sierra Leonean diamonds was not only the fuel and the root cause of the conflict but also a major obstacle to a peaceful resolution of the conflict, welcomed the adoption of the resolution as a major contribution to

the search for peace and stability in Sierra Leone.⁴⁶ Several speakers agreed that the measures contained in the draft resolution were an important instrument to stop the illicit exploitation of and trade in diamonds in order to help restore peace and stability in Sierra Leone.⁴⁷

The representative of Canada, stating that the natural wealth of Sierra Leone needed to be used for the people of the country, welcomed the balanced approach of the resolution, which targeted illicit Sierra Leone diamonds through a certification regime. While recalling the responsibility of the diamond industry to be vigilant in its processes and in its practices, he added that the Council should consider taking further action to tackle the regional sources of support for RUF.⁴⁸

With reference to the time-bound nature of the sanctions regime imposed by the Council, the representative of the United States expressed reservations about the effectiveness of a time frame for the sanctions, stressing that the only viable criterion for a review of the measures was a change in the behaviour that led to the sanctions in the first place, namely the use of diamonds by RUF to fuel the conflict in Sierra Leone and the full control of the Government over its resources.⁴⁹ While the representative of the Netherlands supported the periodic review of the sanctions regime, he opposed time limits leading to an automatic discontinuation of sanctions in the absence of a resolution leading to their extension.⁵⁰

By contrast, expressing his satisfaction with the element of time-bound sanctions contained in the draft resolution, the representative of China indicated that the sanctions imposed by the Council should not be indefinite and that a periodic review of such measures should be conducted and adjustments made on the basis of circumstances.⁵¹ Similarly, the representative of the Russian Federation emphasized that it was of fundamental importance that the sanctions regime, in relation to the illegitimate export of diamonds from Sierra Leone, was limited to 18 months from the time

⁴² At its 4163rd meeting, held in private on 21 June 2000, the Council met with the delegation of the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council Committee of Six on Sierra Leone which included the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mali (leader of the delegation), the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo, the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Guinea to the United Nations, and the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS. The members of the Security Council and the Ministerial Committee had a full discussion of the situation in Sierra Leone, during which they agreed on the need, in accordance with the objectives set out in the Lomé Agreement, to restore stability and normality throughout Sierra Leone, putting an end to violence and encouraging reconciliation between all parties to the conflict. Council members and the ECOWAS Committee also condemned the continued detention by RUF of United Nations peacekeepers and the denial of freedom of movement to a large number of other United Nations personnel in the east of the country, demanding the immediate and unconditional release of all United Nations personnel detained or surrounded. Members of the Security Council and the ECOWAS delegation also expressed their concern about the humanitarian situation in Sierra Leone and called upon all parties to ensure safe and unhindered access of humanitarian assistance to those in need in Sierra Leone. Finally, members of the Security Council informed the members of the ECOWAS delegation of ongoing discussion within the Council on draft resolutions concerning the strengthening of UNAMSIL, the control of diamond exports and arms imports and on the provision of justice.

⁴³ For more information on the discussion at this meeting, see chap. XI, part III, sect. B, with regard to Article 41 of the Charter.

⁴⁴ S/2000/455.

⁴⁵ Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Turkey aligned themselves with the statement.

⁴⁶ S/PV.4168, pp. 2-3.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4 (United Kingdom); pp. 4-5 (United States); p. 6 (Russian Federation); pp. 6-7 (Argentina); and p. 7 (China).

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 7-8.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 4-5.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 8-9.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, p. 7.

of adoption of the draft resolution, indicating that the Council should then review the situation in Sierra Leone and, if necessary, take a decision as to whether the sanctions should be extended or adjusted.⁵²

The representative of France expressed the hope that the Council would be quick in deciding to support an increase in the troop strength of UNAMSIL as recommended by the Secretary-General and in bringing Mr. Sankoh and his associates to trial for violations of the Lomé Peace Agreement. Calling on the leadership of RUF to immediately and unconditionally respect the commitments made, he held that Mr. Sankoh could no longer be considered a partner of the peace process under any circumstances, by virtue of his personal responsibility for the recent events that had occurred in Sierra Leone.⁵³

The representative of Mali declined to support the resolution, pointing out that by calling into question one of the States of ECOWAS, namely Liberia, the resolution had faulted the growing working relationship between the Council and ECOWAS. Given that the investigation by ECOWAS into the diamond trade had not been completed, he added that the reference to Liberia was of concern to ECOWAS and noted that it might have implications for the role of ECOWAS in the peace process.⁵⁴

At the same meeting, the President (Jamaica) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution,⁵⁵ submitted by the United Kingdom; it was put to a vote and was adopted by 14 votes to none, with 1 abstention (Mali), as resolution 1306 (2000), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, *inter alia*:

Decided that all States should take the necessary measures to prohibit the direct or indirect import of all rough diamonds from Sierra Leone to their territory;

Requested the Government of Sierra Leone to ensure that an effective certificate-of-origin regime for trade in diamonds was in operation in Sierra Leone;

Also requested States, relevant international organizations and other bodies in a position to do so to offer assistance to the Government of Sierra Leone to facilitate the full operation of an effective certificate-of-origin regime for Sierra Leone rough diamonds;

Decided that rough diamonds controlled by the Government of Sierra Leone through the certificate-of-origin regime should be exempt from the measures imposed in paragraph 1 of the resolution when the Committee reported to the Council;

Decided that the measures referred to in paragraph 1 are established for an initial period of 18 months, and affirmed that, at the end of this period, it would review the situation in Sierra Leone;

Requested all States to report to the Committee established by resolution 1132 (1997), within 30 days of the adoption of the present resolution, on the actions taken to implement the measures imposed by paragraph 1 of the resolution;

Requested the Committee to hold an exploratory hearing in New York no later than 31 July 2000 to assess the role of diamonds in the Sierra Leone conflict and the link between trade in Sierra Leone diamonds and trade in arms and related materiel in violation of resolution 1171 (1998);

Decided to conduct a first review on the measures imposed by paragraph 1 of the resolution no later than 15 September 2000, and further such reviews every six months after the date of adoption of the resolution;

Requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Committee, to establish a panel of experts, for an initial period of four months, consisting of no more than five members.

**Decision of 17 July 2000 (4173rd meeting):
statement by the President**

At the 4173rd meeting, on 17 July 2000, the President (Jamaica) made a statement on behalf of the Council,⁵⁶ by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Expressed its full support for the decision taken by the Secretary-General to mount a military operation by UNAMSIL to relieve its surrounded peacekeepers and military observers at Kailahun;

Expressed its satisfaction at the successful outcome of the operation and its admiration for the professionalism, determination and robustness displayed by UNAMSIL forces involved in this difficult and dangerous operation;

Expressed its profound condolences to the family of the Indian sergeant, Krishna Kumar, who gave his life in the cause of peace; and Expressed also its sympathies to those who were wounded.

⁵⁶ S/PRST/2000/24.

⁵² *Ibid.*, p. 6.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, pp. 9-10.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 5-6.

⁵⁵ S/2000/635.

**Decision of 4 August 2000 (4184th meeting):
resolution 1313 (2000)**

On 19 May 2000, the Secretary-General submitted a report on UNAMSIL.⁵⁷ In his report, the Secretary-General observed that the overall situation in Sierra Leone remained tense and critical, particularly in the light of the deliberate and unprovoked attacks by RUF fighters on United Nations peacekeepers and the detention of large numbers of United Nations personnel. He demanded that the leadership of RUF take urgent steps to ensure that all remaining United Nations personnel in their hands were released immediately and unconditionally and called upon those with influence on RUF to continue to work towards this end. In addition, he called upon the Security Council to consider a strengthening of the sanctions regime, including measures which would prevent the RUF commanders from reaping the benefits of their illegal exploitation of mineral resources, in particular diamonds. Finally, he recommended an increase in the strength of UNAMSIL up to a level of 16,500 military personnel for the purpose of stabilizing the situation in Sierra Leone.

On 31 July 2000, the Secretary-General submitted another report on UNAMSIL,⁵⁸ reiterating that the situation in Sierra Leone remained dangerous and volatile, he observed that, under the present circumstances, peace and stability in the country could not be achieved through either political or military means only, but through a collective approach, concentrating efforts for a political solution based on a robust and credible military presence. He therefore recommended the extension of the mandate of UNAMSIL for another period of six months.

At its 4184th meeting, on 4 August 2000, the Council included in its agenda the above-mentioned reports of the Secretary-General. At the meeting, in which the representative of Sierra Leone was invited to participate, the President (Malaysia) drew the attention of the Council to a letter dated 24 July 2000 from the representative of Sierra Leone transmitting an address by the President of Sierra Leone announcing, *inter alia*, that he would soon order the establishment of a code of

conduct for the Armed Forces;⁵⁹ and a letter dated 2 August 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council informing the Council that he had appointed a panel of experts pursuant to paragraph 19 of resolution 1306 (2000) to collect information on possible violations of the measures imposed by paragraph 2 of resolution 1171 (1998) and the link between trade in diamonds and trade in arms and related materiel, and to consider the adequacy of air traffic control systems in the region.⁶⁰

The President also drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;⁶¹ it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1313 (2000), by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Decided to extend the mandate of UNAMSIL until 8 September 2000;

Considered that the widespread and serious violations of the Lomé Peace Agreement (S/1999/777) by RUF since early May 2000 constituted a breakdown of the prior generally permissive environment based on the Agreement and predicated on the cooperation of the parties, that until security conditions had been established allowing progress towards the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Sierra Leone there would continue to be a threat to UNAMSIL and the security of the state of Sierra Leone, and that, in order to counter that threat, the structure, capability, resources and mandate of UNAMSIL required appropriate strengthening;

Recognized that the RUF offensive against UNAMSIL since May 2000 revealed serious inherent weaknesses in the Mission's structure, command and control and resources as referred to in the report of the Secretary-General of 31 July 2000, reflecting findings of the United Nations assessment mission which visited Sierra Leone from 31 May to 8 June 2000; welcomed the recommendations made and action already taken to address these deficiencies; and requested the Secretary-General to take further urgent steps to implement these recommendations to improve the performance and capacity of the mission.

**Decision of 14 August 2000 (4186th meeting):
resolution 1315 (2000)**

At its 4186th meeting, on 14 August 2000, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on UNAMSIL dated 31 July 2000.⁶² At the meeting, in which the representative of Sierra

⁵⁷ S/2000/455, submitted pursuant to resolution 1289 (2000).

⁵⁸ S/2000/751, submitted pursuant to resolution 1289 (2000).

⁵⁹ S/2000/727.

⁶⁰ S/2000/756.

⁶¹ S/2000/764.

⁶² S/2000/751.

Leone was invited to participate, the President (Malaysia) drew the attention of the Council to a letter dated 9 August 2000 from the representative of Sierra Leone, transmitting a letter by the President of Sierra Leone requesting the Council to initiate a process to set up a special court for Sierra Leone to try those members of RUF and their accomplices responsible for committing crimes against the people of Sierra Leone and for taking United Nations peacekeepers hostage.⁶³ The President of the Council then drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;⁶⁴ it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1315 (2000), by which the Council, inter alia:

Requested the Secretary-General to negotiate an agreement with the Government of Sierra Leone to create an independent special court consistent with the resolution;

Recommended that the subject matter jurisdiction of the special court should include notably crimes against humanity, war crimes and other serious violations of international humanitarian law, as well as crimes under relevant Sierra Leonean law committed within the territory of Sierra Leone;

Recommended further that the special court should have personal jurisdiction over persons who bore the greatest responsibility for the commission of the crimes referred to in paragraph 2, including those leaders who, in committing such crimes, had threatened the establishment of and implementation of the peace process in Sierra Leone;

Requested, in this connection, that the Secretary-General, if necessary, send a team of experts to Sierra Leone as may be required to prepare the report referred to in paragraph 6;

Requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Security Council on the implementation of the resolution, in particular on his consultations and negotiations with the Government of Sierra Leone concerning the establishment of the special court, including recommendations, no later than 30 days from the date of the resolution.

**Decisions of 5 and 20 September 2000
(4193rd and 4199th meetings): resolutions
1317 (2000) and 1321 (2000)**

At its 4193rd and 4199th meetings, on 5 and 20 September 2000, respectively, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on UNAMSIL dated 24 August 2000.⁶⁵ In his report,

following the decision contained in resolution 1313 (2000) to reinforce the military component of UNAMSIL through the provision of a strengthened force reserve, the Secretary-General, after consultations with the troop-contributing countries, provided a description of the tasks that would be required of UNAMSIL in the environment prevailing in Sierra Leone, its concept of operations and the necessary resources. In order for the Mission to enhance its operational structure and overall effectiveness and to deploy progressively forward in strength to key areas in Sierra Leone, the Secretary-General recommended that the Council authorize an increase in the Mission's military strength to a level of 20,500 military personnel, including 260 military observers, to enable it to achieve the first two phases of forward deployment. The Secretary-General believed that, in the present circumstances, the Mission's priority tasks, as indicated in resolution 1313 (2000), could largely be achieved under its current mandate, based on resolutions 1270 (1999) and 1289 (2000), and robust rules of engagement, provided that the Mission received the necessary resources and support from Member States. He therefore expressed his intention to keep the security, political and humanitarian situation in Sierra Leone under close review, leaving open the option to revert again to the Council with any additional recommendations, including the possibility of further strengthening the Force and/or its mandate, should this be required to reach the international community's objectives in Sierra Leone. Finally, in view of the proposed increase in the United Nations military presence in Sierra Leone, the Secretary-General called upon Member States to support UNAMSIL, in particular those able to provide specialized support units or those that have the capacity to train, equip or provide other support to current and future UNAMSIL troops.

At those meetings, in which the representative of Sierra Leone was invited to participate, the Council adopted resolutions 1317 (2000) and 1321 (2000) extending the mandate of UNAMSIL, in total until 31 December 2000. By resolution 1321 (2000), the Council also decided to review the situation no later than 31 October.

⁶³ S/2000/786.

⁶⁴ S/2000/789.

⁶⁵ S/2000/832, submitted pursuant to resolution 1313 (2000). At its 4199th meeting, the Council also included in its agenda an addendum concerning the financial

implications of the increase in the strength of the Mission (S/2000/832/Add.1).

Decision of 3 November 2000 (4216th meeting): statement by the President

At its 4216th meeting, on 3 November 2000, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Security Council mission to Sierra Leone dated 16 October 2000,⁶⁶ and the report of the Secretary-General on UNAMSIL dated 31 October 2000.⁶⁷

In its report, the Council reported on its mission to Sierra Leone from 7 to 14 October and made a number of recommendations, including for the intensification of the momentum of the peace process, aimed at an early ceasefire throughout the territory of Sierra Leone; the strengthening of UNAMSIL in terms of numbers, effectiveness and capability, as recommended by the Secretary-General in his report dated 24 August 2000, taking advantage of the offers of further troops from, inter alia, ECOWAS countries; a well-coordinated and comprehensive approach, based on credible military pressure, including a dialogue with the rebels leading to their disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, justice and reconciliation, humanitarian assistance, and the economic and social rehabilitation of Sierra Leone; the establishment of a continuous United Nations-based mechanism for overall coordination, including a process of consultation through some form of structure, between the Security Council and the Secretariat, ECOWAS, UNAMSIL troop-contributing countries and the Government of Sierra Leone.

In his report dated 31 October 2000, the Secretary-General observed that, following the decision by the Governments of India and Jordan to withdraw their contingents from the Mission, it was important to avoid any security gaps in Sierra Leone. He therefore added that in the phase of overlap between the deployment of incoming and outgoing units, a temporary increase in the short term of the Mission's troop strength over the authorized level of 13,000 military personnel was needed. Sharing the observations of the Security Council mission that the challenges in Sierra Leone required a well-coordinated and comprehensive approach, the Secretary-General noted that a key aspect of this approach was the continued provision of security by UNAMSIL in key areas of the country. In order to achieve this objective

without exposing its troops to undue risks, he therefore observed that UNAMSIL would require an increase in its authorized strength to the level of 20,500 all ranks, as recommended in his previous report. In this regard, however, he reported that, after approaching a number of Governments to ascertain their willingness to provide the necessary troops and equipment, it appeared that the offers received were barely enough to compensate for the loss of the capabilities provided by the Indian and Jordanian contingents. He therefore concluded that, unless additional troop contributors were quickly identified, it would not be possible to envisage the further strengthening of UNAMSIL well into the year 2001, with the chance of undermining the credibility of the international community's military presence in Sierra Leone. Stressing that this could have negative repercussions for Sierra Leone, he therefore appealed to Member States to urgently consider participating in UNAMSIL with troops and/or equipment, while in the meantime, the implementation of the Mission's current mandate, in particular its deployment on the ground, would be adjusted in the light of the available resources.

At the meeting, in which the representative of Sierra Leone was invited to participate, the President (Netherlands) made a statement on behalf of the Council,⁶⁸ by which the Council, inter alia:

Supported efforts to strengthen the State institutions of Sierra Leone; underlined the importance of RUF relinquishing control of the diamond producing areas, full freedom of movement of UNAMSIL leading to its deployment throughout the country, and demobilization of all non-governmental forces;

Reiterated its firm intention to take action to strengthen UNAMSIL at the appropriate time, taking into account the readiness of troop-contributing countries to provide sufficient forces to this end.

Decision of 22 December 2000 (4253rd meeting): resolution 1334 (2000)

At its 4253rd meeting, on 22 December 2000, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on UNAMSIL dated 15 December 2000.⁶⁹ In his report, the Secretary-General observed that, despite some positive developments which included the signing on 10 November of the Abuja ceasefire agreement between RUF and the Government

⁶⁶ S/2000/992.

⁶⁷ S/2000/1055, submitted pursuant to resolution 1289 (2000).

⁶⁸ S/PRST/2000/31.

⁶⁹ S/2000/1199, submitted pursuant to resolution 1289 (2000).

of Sierra Leone, the situation in the country remained precarious. Reiterating the recommendations contained in his previous reports to increase the Mission's military strength to a level of 20,500 personnel, the Secretary-General suggested in the meantime the extension of the Mission's mandate for a further period of three months, which would allow the Mission to complete its consolidation phase and to respond to the requirements of the Abuja ceasefire agreement.

At the meeting, in which the representative of Sierra Leone was invited to participate, the President (Russian Federation) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;⁷⁰ it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1334 (2000), by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Expressed its continued concern at the continuing fragile situation in Sierra Leone and neighbouring States;

Recalled that the main objectives of UNAMSIL remained to assist the efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone to extend State authority, restore law and order and further stabilize the situation progressively throughout the entire country and to assist in the promotion of the political process, leading to a renewed disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme where possible, and reiterated that, to that end, the structure, capability, resources and mandate of UNAMSIL required appropriate strengthening; strongly urged all States in a position to do so seriously to consider contributing peacekeeping forces for Sierra Leone;

Decided to extend the mandate of UNAMSIL until 31 March 2001.

Deliberations of 25 January 2001 (4264th meeting)

At its 4264th meeting, on 25 January 2001, the Council included in its agenda a note by the President of the Security Council dated 20 December 2000,⁷¹ transmitting the report of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1306 (2000) to collect information on possible violations of the measures imposed by paragraph 2 of resolution 1171 (1998) and the link between trade in diamonds and trade in arms and related materiel as well as the adequacy of air traffic control systems in the region. In the report, noting with concern that Security Council resolutions on diamonds and weapons were being broken with impunity, the Panel of Experts made a variety of specific recommendations dealing with

diamonds, weapons and the use of aircraft for sanctions-busting and the movement of illicit weapons. Many of these recommendations and the problems addressed related to the primary support given to RUF by Liberia, particularly its President, its Government and the individuals and companies associated with it. With regard to diamonds, the Panel observed that diamonds had become an important resource for RUF in sustaining and advancing its military ambitions and that, as long as no controls were in place in neighbouring countries, RUF would continue to move their diamonds out with impunity. For this reason, the Panel *inter alia* recommended that, in order to better regulate the flow of rough diamonds from producing countries, a global certification scheme based on the system currently adopted in Sierra Leone be set up. In the short run, and in the absence of a global system, the Panel further recommended that certification systems, similar to that adopted by Sierra Leone, be required of all diamond-exporting countries in West Africa and that a complete embargo be imposed on all diamonds from Liberia until Liberia demonstrated convincingly that it was no longer involved in the trafficking of arms to, or diamonds from, Sierra Leone. With regard to arms trafficking, the Panel found unequivocal and overwhelming evidence that Liberia had been actively supporting RUF at all levels, in providing training, weapons and related materiel, logistical support, a staging ground for attacks and a safe haven for retreat and recuperation, and for public relations activities. With regard to air traffic control, the Panel *inter alia* observed that regional air surveillance capacities were weak or totally inadequate in detecting, or in acting as a deterrent to the arms merchants supplying Liberia and RUF. Weak airspace surveillance in the region in general, and abusive practices with regard to aircraft registration, created a climate in which arms traffickers operated with impunity. The Panel therefore suggested that the Security Council consider ways in which air traffic control and surveillance in West Africa could be improved, with a view to curtailing the illicit movement of weapons. In addition to the foregoing, the Panel offered a number of other recommendations, including: (1) the set up of a travel ban by all United Nations Members similar to that already imposed on senior Liberian officials and diplomats by the United States until such time as Liberia's support to RUF and its breaking of other United Nations sanctions ended conclusively; (2) the set up of a temporary embargo on Liberian timber exports, until Liberia demonstrated

⁷⁰ S/2000/1224.

⁷¹ S/2000/1195.

convincingly that it was no longer involved in the trafficking of arms, or diamonds from, Sierra Leone; and (3) the creation of a capacity within the United Nations Secretariat for ongoing monitoring of Security Council sanctions and embargoes.

At the meeting, the President (Singapore) drew the attention of the Council to a note by the President of the Security Council enclosing a letter dated 21 December 2000 from the Permanent Observer of Switzerland that set out the measures that Switzerland had taken regarding the issue of conflict diamonds;⁷² letters dated 28 December 2000 and 23 January 2001, respectively, from the representative of the Gambia contesting some allegations included in the report of the Panel of Experts;⁷³ a letter dated 3 January 2001 from the representative of Liberia countering some allegations against Liberia included in the report of the Panel of Experts, requesting to be invited to the Council's discussion on the report, and informing the Council of its intention to make a proposal for the Council's consideration;⁷⁴ and a letter dated 24 January 2001 from the representative of Liberia addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a letter from the President of Liberia.⁷⁵

Following a briefing by the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone, statements were made by all members of the Council, as well as by the representatives of Belgium, Burkina Faso, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Guinea, Liberia,⁷⁶ the Niger, Sierra Leone and Sweden (on behalf of the European Union⁷⁷) and the Permanent Observer of Switzerland.

In his briefing, the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) introduced the aforementioned report of the Panel of Experts. Recalling that the report offered specific and general recommendations of a procedural and systemic nature, the Chairman stressed that a comprehensive

approach was needed to address the situation in Sierra Leone that would involve actors other than the Council and urged the Council to put emphasis on follow-up action to the recommendations.⁷⁸

During the debate, many speakers welcomed and endorsed the report of the Panel of Experts, noting with concern the role of the Government of Liberia in fuelling the conflict in Sierra Leone, both by financial and military support.⁷⁹ By contrast, some delegations expressed reservations concerning the report and highlighted what they viewed as problems with the report. The representative of the Russian Federation held that some of the Panel's recommendations were too radical and went beyond the mandate of the Panel as decided by the Council. Further, he lamented that there were no recommendations on how to enhance the effectiveness of the Sierra Leone sanctions regime, including within the context of the Organization of African Unity and ECOWAS.⁸⁰ The representative of Ukraine maintained that a number of the Panel's recommendations should be looked at from the point of view of their consistency, both with the original mandate of the Panel and the work being done in other specific competent forums.⁸¹ The representative of Burkina Faso and the Permanent Observer of Switzerland also expressed concerns about the report, particularly with regard to some allegations made by the report regarding the role and involvement of their countries.⁸² Similarly, the representative of the Gambia expressed concern at the allegations contained in the report, referring to them as baseless and malicious, particularly since the Panel had not visited the Gambia.⁸³

Concerning the Panel's recommendations on diamonds, several speakers expressed support for the recommendation that a global certification scheme, based on the system adopted in Sierra Leone, should be endorsed. The representative of Sweden also supported

⁷² S/2000/1232.

⁷³ S/2001/8 and S/2001/74.

⁷⁴ S/2001/6.

⁷⁵ S/2001/78.

⁷⁶ Liberia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

⁷⁷ Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey aligned themselves with the statement.

⁷⁸ S/PV.4264, pp. 2-4.

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 4-6 (United Kingdom); pp. 7-8 (France); pp. 9-11 (Colombia); pp. 15-17 (United States); pp. 17-18 (Mauritius); pp. 20-21 (Norway); pp. 21-22 (Singapore); S/PV.4264 (Resumption 1), pp. 2-3 (Sweden on behalf of the European Union); and p. 5 (Guinea).

⁸⁰ S/PV.4264, pp. 12-13.

⁸¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 18-19.

⁸² S/PV.4264 (Resumption 1), pp. 4-5 (Switzerland); and pp. 6-7 (Burkina Faso).

⁸³ *Ibid.*, pp. 7-8.

coordinated action in order to establish national certification schemes in the region.⁸⁴ The representative of the Russian Federation expressed doubts about the six-month period proposed in the report for establishing and introducing the certification regimes as well as on the financing of such measures. He added that his delegation found it totally unacceptable that the report attempted to raise the question of establishing an international certification system for rough diamonds, as the question was being discussed in the intergovernmental negotiation process and the Panel of Experts had not been authorized by the Council to make recommendations in favour of the position of any one party in that dialogue.⁸⁵

Concerning the Panel's recommendations on arms trafficking, particularly the flow of small arms into West Africa, a number of speakers pointed to the need for producing countries to exert better control over their weapons exports.⁸⁶ The representative of the United Kingdom, stressing the importance of thorough checks on the proposed end use of arms exports at the time of licensing.⁸⁷ The representatives of Jamaica and Sweden noted their support for the ECOWAS Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa⁸⁸ and held that it deserved support from the international community.⁸⁹ The representative of Colombia held that the Council should reinforce international measures to limit the inflow of weapons into West Africa. Arms-producing countries, he noted, should be the first to monitor transactions destined for conflict areas, areas under moratorium and those subject to a Security Council embargo.⁹⁰ The representative of Tunisia expressed support for the recommendation of Burkina Faso, endorsed by the Panel, that the Council should supervise the import of all weapons into Burkina Faso for a three-year period.⁹¹

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

⁸⁵ S/PV.4264, p. 13.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 5 (United Kingdom); p. 7 (Jamaica); p. 8 (France); p. 10 (Colombia); and p. 11 (Tunisia).

⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

⁸⁸ See S/1998/1194.

⁸⁹ S/PV.4264, p. 7 (Jamaica); and S/PV.4264 (Resumption 1), p. 2 (Sweden on behalf of the European Union).

⁹⁰ S/PV.4264, p. 10.

⁹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 11.

Concerning the Panel's recommendations on air traffic control, the representative of Colombia held that the Council must ask for a more transparent regime of ships and planes in those areas that used flags of convenience. He also held that the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) should be more active in providing countries with the necessary equipment, including the possible deployment of monitors at airports at critical points.⁹² The representative of Ireland noted that his Government would strongly welcome increased collaboration between the relevant actors and bodies such as ICAO, the World Customs Organization and INTERPOL.⁹³

With regard to the recommendation by the Panel for enhanced capacity within the United Nations Secretariat for supporting the Council and the sanctions committees on all aspects of sanctions, several delegations agreed with the proposal.⁹⁴ The representative of the United Kingdom expressed the view that this support could include action to profile arms brokers and intermediaries responsible for supplying weapons to RUF.⁹⁵ The representative of Canada held that monitoring arrangements should remain in place for the duration of each targeted sanctions regime and, moreover, urged the Council to consider putting in place a standing and integrated monitoring arrangement that would operate with reference to sanctions regimes and related issues.⁹⁶

Speakers also commented on a draft resolution before the Council, co-sponsored by the United Kingdom and the United States, which would impose, under Chapter VII of the Charter, a range of measures on Liberia designed to put effective pressure on President Taylor and his associates. The representative of the United Kingdom, presenting the draft resolution, added that such measures, which included a ban on Liberian rough diamonds, a ban on flights by Liberian registered aircraft, a new arms embargo, a selective travel ban on senior Liberian officials and a ban on the import of Liberian timber, had been carefully crafted to have minimal consequences for the people of Liberia, while making Liberian support for RUF more difficult. He recalled that the draft resolution made clear that

⁹² *Ibid.*, p. 10.

⁹³ *Ibid.*, p. 14.

⁹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 5 (United Kingdom); p. 6 (Jamaica); pp. 10-11 (Colombia); and p. 11 (Tunisia).

⁹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

⁹⁶ S/PV. 4264 (Resumption 1), pp. 3-4.

sanctions would be lifted as soon as the Council saw an end to Liberian financial and military support for RUF in Sierra Leone and armed rebel movements in other neighbouring countries.⁹⁷ Other speakers, including the representatives of the United States, France, Norway, Guinea, Ireland, Mauritius, Singapore, Sweden and Canada expressed support for the proposed measures.⁹⁸ The representative of the United States, stressing that the proposed sanctions would not adversely affect the people of Liberia, stated that the proposed measures mirrored steps that had been recommended in the report of the Panel of Experts.⁹⁹ Noting that the most urgent task was to take concrete measures to effectively curb the illegal diamond trade and the illicit flows of and trafficking in arms so as to reduce the negative effects of these two phenomena on peace in Sierra Leone, the representative of China held the view that any sanctions imposed would have to be well targeted, have a time limit and avoid all possible negative humanitarian effects.¹⁰⁰ The representative of France, echoed by the representative of Canada, stressed that sanctions should be “motivational” rather than punitive, and linked to precise criteria for lifting them.¹⁰¹ The representative of the Russian Federation held that it was essential to further analyse all factors involved and to take into account the views of ECOWAS on the matter.¹⁰²

The representative of Sierra Leone, considering the findings of the report to be credible and its recommendations far-reaching but viable, noted that his delegation agreed with the experts that based on unequivocal and overwhelming evidence, Liberia had been providing RUF with military and other types of assistance to carry out and prolong the conflict in Sierra Leone. He urged the Council to consider endorsing the recommendations of the Panel in a binding resolution under Chapter VII of the Charter and drew attention to widespread calls on the Council

to change the mandate of UNAMSIL from peacekeeping to peace enforcement.¹⁰³

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liberia noted that his country had serious reservations on the report of the Panel of Experts and denied any connection between Liberia and the illicit trade of Sierra Leone diamonds. He defined as unfair and erroneous the Panel’s conclusion that Liberia was the primary supplier of arms received by RUF. He elaborated on various initiatives taken to address the concerns of the international community, including those of ECOWAS, with regard to the problem in Sierra Leone and noted that the Government of Liberia had decided to seek the assistance and cooperation of the United Nations in putting into place an appropriate mechanism for the control and monitoring of the diamond trade. He elaborated on his Government’s proposal in that regard.¹⁰⁴

**Decision of 30 March 2001 (4306th meeting):
resolution 1346 (2001)**

At its 4306th meeting, on 30 March 2001, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on UNAMSIL dated 14 March 2001.¹⁰⁵ In his report, the Secretary-General observed that while the situation in Sierra Leone had remained relatively stable since the signing of the Abuja Agreement, deep concerns remained about the continuing incursions and violence at the borders of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Recalling that a key objective of the peace process in Sierra Leone remained to end, as soon as possible, the RUF rebellion, to extend the legitimate authority throughout the country, to disarm and demobilize combatants, and also to allow the rebels to pursue political objectives in a democratic process, the Secretary-General noted that the two-track approach, which had been endorsed by the Security Council, continued to offer the best chances of achieving a durable peace through a combination of a strong military deterrent and a political dialogue between the parties to the Abuja Agreement. Concluding that the forward deployment of UNAMSIL in sufficient strength was an indispensable element in that approach, he recommended that the authorized strength of the Mission be increased to

⁹⁷ S/PV.4264, pp. 5-6.

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 8 (France); p. 14 (Ireland); p. 16 (United States); p. 18 (Mauritius); p. 21 (Norway, Singapore); S/PV. 4264 (Resumption 1), p. 2 (Sweden on behalf of the European Union); p. 3 (Canada); and p. 5 (Guinea).

⁹⁹ S/PV.4264, p. 16.

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 12.

¹⁰¹ S/PV.4264, p. 8 (France); S/PV.4264 (Resumption 1), p. 3 (Canada).

¹⁰² S/PV.4264, p.13.

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*, pp. 22-24.

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 24-29.

¹⁰⁵ S/2001/228, submitted pursuant to resolution 1289 (2000).

enable it to begin to discharge some of the tasks identified in resolution 1313 (2000) and the Mission be extended for another six months, until 30 September 2001.

At the meeting, in which the representative of Sierra Leone was invited to participate, the President (Ukraine) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;¹⁰⁶ it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1346 (2001), by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Decided that the mandate of UNAMSIL should be extended for a period of six months from the date of the adoption of the resolution;

Further decided to increase the military component of UNAMSIL to a strength of 17,500, including the 260 military observers already deployed, as recommended by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 99 and 100 of his report;

Requested the Secretary-General to inform the Council at regular intervals on progress made by UNAMSIL in the implementation of key aspects of its concept of operations, and further requested him to provide an assessment in his next report on steps taken to improve the effectiveness of UNAMSIL;

Expressed its deep concern at the reports of human rights abuses committed by RUF and others, including other military groups, against the civilian population, in particular the harassment and forced recruitment of adults and children for fighting and forced labour;

Demanded that these acts cease immediately, and requested the Secretary-General to ensure all human rights monitoring positions within UNAMSIL were filled in order to address the concerns raised in paragraphs 44 to 51 of the report of the Secretary-General;

Expressed also its deep concern that the Ceasefire Agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and RUF signed in Abuja on 10 November 2000¹⁰⁷ had not been fully implemented, and demanded that RUF take immediate steps to fulfil its commitments under that Agreement;

Requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council his views on how to take forward the issue of refugees and internally displaced persons, including their return;

Encouraged the efforts of ECOWAS towards a lasting and final settlement of the crisis in the Mano River Union region caused by the continued fighting in the border areas of Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia.

¹⁰⁶ S/2001/293.

¹⁰⁷ S/2000/1091, annex.

Deliberations of 28 June 2001 (4340th meeting)

At its 4340th meeting, on 28 June 2001, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on UNAMSIL dated 25 June 2001.¹⁰⁸ In his report, the Secretary-General observed that some positive developments in Sierra Leone over the past two months constituted grounds for cautious optimism, although many challenges remained and considerable efforts needed to be made to maintain the recently achieved momentum. Stressing the need for the United Nations to remain vigilant and continue its efforts to establish security throughout the country, the Secretary-General reported that UNAMSIL was continuing its forward deployment, in particular to the key diamond-producing areas in the east of the country, as well as its robust patrols to all areas, including towards the borders with Guinea and Liberia. Also, the Secretary-General noted that in the months ahead, once UNAMSIL had deployed further, the establishment of State authority and law and order in the diamond-producing areas would be a particular challenge. Observing that UNAMSIL, in particular its civilian police component, could play an enhanced role in providing training and advice to Sierra Leonean law enforcement officials, the Secretary-General reported that he intended to bring the civilian police component of UNAMSIL to its authorized strength of 60 civilian police advisers as soon as possible and to assess whether there was a need to further expand the United Nations role in that regard. Recalling that the Government had requested, through the National Electoral Commission, the support of the United Nations in the electoral process, he stated that preparations were under way, in accordance with the mandate of UNAMSIL, to provide such support. Finally, the Secretary-General reported that, in the light of the progress achieved on the ground, he was in the process of assessing what deployment pattern UNAMSIL should adopt and the overall military strength that may be required in the next phases, which would involve deployment throughout the country and, subsequently, support for the holding of free and fair elections.

At the meeting, following a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNAMSIL, statements were made by all

¹⁰⁸ S/2001/627, submitted pursuant to resolution 1289 (2000).

Council members, and by the representatives of Nigeria, Pakistan, Sierra Leone and Sweden (on behalf of the European Union).¹⁰⁹

Presenting the report of the Secretary-General,¹⁰⁸ the Special Representative of the Secretary-General noted that despite the fact that some provisions of the Abuja Agreement were not yet implemented, neither the Government of Sierra Leone nor RUF appeared interested in resuming generalized armed conflict. He therefore highlighted several successes, which included the disarmament of the RUF combatants in Kambia district and restoration of Government authority in the region; the removal of roadblocks throughout the country, with a consequent improved humanitarian access; and the release of political prisoners and child combatants. Among the challenges remaining, the Special Representative touched on the need for adequate funding to keep pace with the rapid advancement of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. He also highlighted progress towards the establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission and the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and appealed for donor support for those endeavours. In stressing the increasing need to focus on political issues, he reiterated the Secretary-General's call to the leaders of the Mano River Union to start, without delay, a political dialogue, and urged the Government of Sierra Leone to assist in transitioning RUF into a political party.¹¹⁰

Speakers unanimously conveyed strong support for the ongoing peace process in Sierra Leone led by UNAMSIL; stressed the importance of free and fair elections in the reconciliation and normalization process in Sierra Leone and encouraged UNAMSIL to actively participate in electoral activities; and, underscoring the importance of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme in the peace process, called for closer cooperation between the Government of Sierra Leone, UNAMSIL and other United Nations bodies. Several members also called for the early establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Special Court for Sierra Leone.¹¹¹

Emphasizing the need to address unrest throughout the subregion, particularly the ongoing violence in neighbouring Liberia, in order to bring a comprehensive and lasting solution to the problems in Sierra Leone; speakers also expressed grave concern at the humanitarian situation in the Mano River region, noting the vast numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons, continuing human rights violations, and the current unrest along the Guinea-Liberia border; and echoed the Secretary-General's appeal to the leaders of the Mano River Union countries to enter into a political dialogue for the purpose of restoring security and stability in the subregion.

**Decision of 18 September 2001
(4374th meeting): resolution 1370 (2001)**

At its 4374th meeting, on 18 September 2001, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on UNAMSIL dated 7 September 2001.¹¹² In his report, the Secretary-General, *inter alia*, recommended the extension of the Mission's mandate for a further period of six months in order to complete the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, continue to assist in the implementation of the Abuja Ceasefire Agreement and support the preparations for the forthcoming national elections.

At the meeting, in which the representative of Sierra Leone was invited to participate, the President (France) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution¹¹³ and to a revision to be made to the text; it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1370 (2001), by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Decided that the mandate of UNAMSIL should be extended for a period of six months from 30 September 2001;

Requested the Secretary-General to inform the Council at regular intervals on progress made by UNAMSIL in the implementation of key aspects of its concept of operations, and further requested him to provide an assessment in his next report on steps taken to improve the effectiveness of UNAMSIL;

Expressed its continued deep concern at the reports of human rights abuses committed by RUF and others armed groups against the civilian population and demanded that these acts cease immediately;

¹⁰⁹ Sweden was represented by its Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. The representative of Canada was invited to participate but did not make a statement.

¹¹⁰ S/PV.4340, pp. 2-6.

¹¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 11 (China); p. 14 (Ireland); p. 16 (United States); p. 18 (Colombia); p. 19 (Mali); p. 20 (France, Jamaica); p. 27 (Nigeria); and p. 28 (Bangladesh).

¹¹² S/2001/857 and Add.1, submitted pursuant to resolution 1346 (2001).

¹¹³ S/2001/874.

Urged RUF to step up its efforts to fulfil its commitment under the Ceasefire Agreement signed in Abuja and to ensure full liberty for the United Nations to deploy its troops throughout the country;

Requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council his views on how to take forward the issue of refugees and internally displaced persons, including their return;

Encouraged the ongoing efforts of ECOWAS towards a lasting and final settlement of the crisis in the Mano River Union region; urged international organizations and donor countries to support generously the post-conflict activities, including humanitarian and rehabilitation requirements; and decided to remain actively seized of the matter.

**Decision of 19 December 2001
(4442nd meeting): resolution 1385 (2001)**

At the 4442nd meeting, on 19 December 2001, the President of the Security Council (Mali) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;¹¹⁴ it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1385 (2001), by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Decided that the measures imposed by paragraph 1 of resolution 1306 (2000) should remain in force for a new period of 11 months from 5 January 2002, except that, pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 1306 (2000), rough diamonds controlled by the Government of Sierra Leone under the certificate-of-origin regime should continue to be exempt from these measures;

Affirmed that, in addition to its six-monthly review in accordance with paragraph 15 of resolution 1306 (2000), at the end of this period it would review the situation in Sierra Leone, including the extent of the Government's authority over the diamond-producing areas, in order to decide whether to extend these measures for a further period and, if necessary, to modify them or adopt further measures.

**Decision of 16 January 2002 (4451st meeting):
resolution 1389 (2002)**

At its 4451st meeting, on 16 January 2002, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on UNAMSIL dated 13 December 2001.¹¹⁵ In his report, the Secretary-General, *inter alia*, outlined the United Nations role in supporting the elections and, in this connection, recommended an increase of the civilian police component of UNAMSIL to advise and support the approximately 6,500 strong

Sierra Leone police force in carrying out its election-related responsibilities.

At the meeting, in which the representative of Sierra Leone was invited to participate, the President of the Security Council (Mauritius) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;¹¹⁶ it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1389 (2002), by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Decided that, further to paragraph 8 (i) of resolution 1270 (1999), in order to facilitate the smooth holding of elections, UNAMSIL should undertake election-related tasks within the parameters set out in paragraphs 48 to 62 of the Secretary-General's report of 13 December 2001, within its existing mandate, capabilities and areas of deployment and in the light of conditions on the ground;

Authorized the increase in the United Nations civilian police proposed by the Secretary-General in his report of 13 December 2001, encouraged the Secretary-General to request a further increase if appropriate, and endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendation that the United Nations civilian police should perform the following tasks: (a) advise and support the Sierra Leone police in carrying out their election-related responsibilities; (b) assist the Sierra Leone police to devise and implement an electoral training programme for their personnel, focused mainly on establishing security for public events, human rights and police conduct.

**Decision of 28 March 2002 (4500th meeting):
resolution 1400 (2002)**

At its 4500th meeting, on 28 March 2002, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on UNAMSIL dated 14 March 2002.¹¹⁷ In his report, the Secretary-General observed that the completion of the disarmament process and the deployment of UNAMSIL throughout the country created a relatively more secure environment, which provided a unique opportunity for Sierra Leone to hold free and fair elections, which he hoped could be conducted in a credible manner and in a reasonably secure and peaceful environment. Noting that the continued engagement of UNAMSIL after the elections would still be indispensable until the security forces of Sierra Leone had the capacity to take full responsibility for the country's security, he recommended that the mandate of the Mission be extended for another six months. Should the security situation in Sierra Leone

¹¹⁴ S/2001/1216.

¹¹⁵ S/2001/1195 and Add.1, submitted pursuant to resolution 1370 (2001).

¹¹⁶ S/2002/68.

¹¹⁷ S/2002/267, submitted pursuant to resolution 1370 (2001).

continue to improve after the elections, the Secretary-General added that adjustments would need to be made to the current strength, composition and deployment of UNAMSIL troops, on the basis of how the post-election situation evolved.

At the meeting, in which the representative of Sierra Leone was invited to participate, the President (Norway) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution¹¹⁸ and to an oral amendment to the text, it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1400 (2002), by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Decided that the mandate of UNAMSIL should be extended for a period of six months from 30 March 2002;

Welcomed the military concept of operations for UNAMSIL for 2002 outlined in paragraph 10 of the Secretary-General's report of 14 March 2002, and requested the Secretary-General to inform the Council at regular intervals on progress made by UNAMSIL in the implementation of its key aspects and in the planning of its subsequent phases.

Decision of 22 May 2002 (4539th meeting): statement by the President

At the 4539th meeting, on 22 May 2002, the President of the Security Council (Singapore) made a statement on behalf of the Council,¹¹⁹ by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Welcomed the elections held in Sierra Leone on 14 May 2002;

Commended the National Electoral Commission and all those responsible for the successful management of the elections, and commended UNAMSIL for their invaluable supporting role;

Noted that the various electoral observation groups were impressed by the Sierra Leonean people's commitment to democracy and their determination to vote;

Called on all political parties and their supporters to work together to strengthen democracy and thereby assure continuing peace;

Considered the elections an important milestone on the road to peace and security in Sierra Leone and the Mano River region;

The next challenge for Sierra Leone and the international community was the further consolidation of peace extension of public services to make real the restoration of government authority throughout the country, the further enhancement of the

¹¹⁸ S/2002/321.

¹¹⁹ S/PRST/2002/14.

operational effectiveness of the security sector, and the effective reintegration of all ex-combatants;

Urged all donors to contribute generously towards providing urgently needed funds to the Special Court and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Decision of 24 September 2002 (4615th meeting): resolution 1436 (2002)

At its 4615th meeting,¹²⁰ on 24 September 2002, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on UNAMSIL dated 5 September 2002.¹²¹ In his report, the Secretary-General provided a further assessment of the security situation in Sierra Leone and described the concept for the adjustment of UNAMSIL. In the light of the encouraging developments in Sierra Leone, along with the steady improvement in the security situation in the country, the Secretary-General recommended that the Council consider beginning the drawdown of UNAMSIL. The ultimate objective of the drawdown process, he observed, was to conduct a gradual, phased and deliberate transfer of responsibility for the security of Sierra Leone from UNAMSIL to the Government of Sierra Leone. Stressing that the beginning of the drawdown of UNAMSIL would take the Mission into the final phase of the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Sierra Leone, he recommended that the Security Council approve his proposal for the adjustment and drawdown of UNAMSIL and extend the mandate of the Mission for a further period of six months, in order to facilitate the commencement of the adjustment process.

At the meeting, in which the representative of Sierra Leone was invited to participate, the President of the Security Council (Bulgaria) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;¹²² it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1436 (2002), by which the Council, *inter alia*:

¹²⁰ At its 4570th meeting, held in private on 11 July 2002, the Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and by the representative of Mexico, in his capacity as Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone; a constructive discussion followed.

¹²¹ S/2002/987.

¹²² S/2002/1062.

Decided that the mandate of UNAMSIL should be extended for a period of six months from 30 September 2002;

Urged UNAMSIL to take responsibility for internal and external security, to complete phases 1 and 2 of the Secretary-General's plan, including the reduction of 4,500 troops within eight months, and requested the Secretary-General to inform the Council at regular intervals on progress made by UNAMSIL in implementing the adjustments and in the planning of subsequent phases;

Reiterated its strong support for the Special Court for Sierra Leone and welcomed the start of its operations.

**Decision of 4 December 2002 (4654th meeting):
resolution 1446 (2002)**

At the 4654th meeting, on 4 December 2002, the President of the Security Council (Colombia) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;¹²³ it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1446 (2002), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter:

Decided that the measures imposed by paragraph 1 of resolution 1306 (2000) should remain in force for a new period of six months from 5 December 2002, except that, pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 1306 (2000), rough diamonds controlled by the Government of Sierra Leone under the Certificate of Origin regime should continue to be exempt from these measures, and affirmed that at the end of this period it would review the situation in Sierra Leone, including the extent of the Government's authority over the diamond-producing areas, in order to decide whether to extend these measures for a further period and, if necessary, to modify them or adopt further measures;

Decided also that the measures imposed by paragraph 1 of resolution 1306 (2000), as extended by paragraph 2, should be terminated immediately if the Council determined that it would be appropriate to do so; decided that the Committee established by resolution 1132 (1997) should continue its consideration of the measures referred to in paragraphs 2, 4 and 5 of resolution 1171 (1998) and present its views to the Council.

**Decision of 28 March 2003 (4729th meeting):
resolution 1470 (2003)**

At its 4729th meeting, on 28 March 2003, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on UNAMSIL dated 17 March 2003.¹²⁴ In his report, the Secretary-General presented detailed proposals for the gradual drawdown of the

Mission guided by progress in the implementation of key security benchmarks and recommended the extension of the UNAMSIL mandate for a further period of six months.

At the meeting, in which the representative of Sierra Leone was invited to participate, the President of the Security Council (Guinea) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;¹²⁵ it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1470 (2003), by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Decided that the mandate of UNAMSIL should be extended for a period of six months from 30 March 2003;

Urged UNAMSIL, guided by an evaluation of the security situation and the capacity and ability of the Sierra Leonean security sector to take responsibility for internal and external security, to complete phase 2 of the Secretary-General's plan as planned and to embark on phase 3 as soon as practicable thereafter;

Requested the Secretary-General to provide the Council with detailed plans for the remainder of the drawdown once phase 3 was under way, including options for faster and slower withdrawal depending on the security situation and the capacity and ability of the Sierra Leonean security sector to take responsibility for internal and external security;

Called on States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to continue to support the National Recovery Strategy of the Government of Sierra Leone;

Urged the Presidents of the Mano River Union member States to resume dialogue and to implement their commitments to building regional peace and security, encouraged ECOWAS and Morocco to continue their efforts towards a settlement of the crisis in the Mano River Union region, and expressed its support for the efforts of the International Contact Group on Liberia towards a resolution of the conflict in that country;

Decided to remain actively seized of the matter.

**Decision of 18 July 2003 (4789th meeting):
resolution 1492 (2003)**

At its 4789th meeting, on 18 July 2003, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on UNAMSIL dated 23 June 2003.¹²⁶ In his report, in addition to providing an assessment of the prevailing security situation in Sierra Leone and the progress made on the benchmarks that had guided the drawdown of UNAMSIL, the Secretary-

¹²³ S/2002/1318.

¹²⁴ S/2003/321 and Corr.1, submitted pursuant to resolution 1436 (2002).

¹²⁵ S/2003/375.

¹²⁶ S/2003/663, submitted pursuant to resolution 1470 (2003).

General also described ongoing efforts to consolidate peace in Sierra Leone, including the activities of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and the efforts to facilitate national recovery. On the basis of such analysis, the Secretary-General provided three options for the remaining phases of the drawdown process and recommended that the Security Council approve “the modified status quo option”, entailing the modification of the current pace of the drawdown process, with a view to completing the withdrawal of UNAMSIL from Sierra Leone by December 2004.

At the meeting, the President of the Security Council (Spain) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;¹²⁷ it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1492 (2003), by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Approved the recommendation of the Secretary-General, in paragraph 68 of his report, that the drawdown of UNAMSIL should proceed according to the “modified status quo” option towards withdrawal by December 2004, and welcomed the intention of the Secretary-General to submit additional recommendations to the Council in early 2004 concerning a residual presence of the United Nations;

Decided to monitor closely the key benchmarks for drawdown and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council at the end of each phase, and at regular intervals, on the progress made with respect to the benchmarks, and to make any necessary recommendations on the planning of subsequent phases of the withdrawal.

Decision of 19 September 2003 (4829th meeting): resolution 1508 (2003)

At its 4829th meeting, on 19 September 2003, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on UNAMSIL dated 5 September 2003.¹²⁸ In his report, after providing an assessment of the security situation and the overall efforts to consolidate peace in Sierra Leone, the Secretary-General reported on the progress made in achieving the

key benchmarks guiding the drawdown of UNAMSIL and in the planning of subsequent phases of the withdrawal. The Secretary-General observed that the further progress achieved towards peace consolidation in Sierra Leone and the overall security environment in the country had enabled UNAMSIL to continue the progressive drawdown of its military component as approved by the Security Council and therefore recommended an extension for a further period of six months. Despite some challenges, the responsibility for national security in some parts of the country, he observed, was being shifted to the Government of Sierra Leone whose efforts aimed at augmenting the overall capacity of its national police and armed forces were encouraging.

At the meeting, in which the representative of Sierra Leone was invited to participate, the President of the Security Council (United Kingdom) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;¹²⁹ it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1508 (2003), by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Decided that the mandate of UNAMSIL should be extended for a period of six months from 30 September 2003; urged the Government of Sierra Leone to continue to strengthen its control over, and regulation of, diamond mining, including through the High-level Steering Committee;

Noted with serious concern the precarious financial situation of the Special Court for Sierra Leone;

Expressed its strong support for the efforts of ECOWAS towards building peace in the subregion;

Welcomed the deployment of ECOWAS forces to Liberia, supported by UNAMSIL;

Reiterated its demand that armed groups in Liberia refrain from illegal incursions into Sierra Leone;

Welcomed the Secretary-General’s intention to keep the security, political, humanitarian and human rights situation in Sierra Leone under close review and to report to the Council;

Decided to remain actively seized of the matter.

¹²⁷ S/2003/713.

¹²⁸ S/2003/863, submitted pursuant to resolution 1492 (2003).

¹²⁹ S/2003/895.